

will not vote for this bill. Today I did not vote for this bill!

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,642,755,073.31. We've added \$6,111,765,706,160.23 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Monday, June 17. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 245, "yea" on rollcall vote 246, and "yea" on rollcall vote 247.

I was also inadvertently absent for the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 256, and "yea" on rollcall vote 259.

IN RECOGNITION OF TERRY BUTTON'S APPOINTMENT TO THE NATIONAL FREIGHT ADVISORY COUNCIL

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Terry Button, a resident of Rushville, New York and the 23rd Congressional district that I am proud to represent. Terry is an owner-operator truck driver who has spent decades in the trucking industry; he personally understands the challenges facing the freight and trucking industry present in America today.

Terry is the owner of a one-truck operation and deals firsthand as the broker, shipper, and receiver of all of the loads he moves. He is a hay farmer who has spent years involved in the selling and shipment of agricultural goods and his combined knowledge of farming and trucking places him in a very specialized field of experienced individuals. Terry sits on the Board of Directors of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, an organization dedicated to upholding the rights and operational standards of truck drivers. In that capacity his knowledge of the trucking industry makes him an invaluable resource for mapping out the future of freight movement.

Recently, Terry was selected by the Secretary of Transportation to be a member of the

National Freight Advisory Council (NFAC). The NFAC was established to ensure that all stakeholders in the freight industry would have a voice in shaping freight policy for the 21st century. I applaud the Secretary for selecting an established and successful businessman like Terry for this important role and further acknowledge the important position he will play as a member of the NFAC.

I am honored to congratulate Terry on his recent selection to be a member of this important panel and look forward to working with both Terry and the Department of Transportation as we move forward establishing freight movement policy for the coming years. Terry's knowledge of the freight industry will prove to be a powerful and insightful tool for policymakers and I am proud to officially recognize him here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP L.D. SKINNER, SR. AND LADY RUTH SKINNER)

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bishop L.D. Skinner, Sr. and Lady Ruth Skinner who will celebrate 20 years as Founders, Leaders, and Servants of the Bread of Life Christian Center and Explosion Ministries Fellowship Association of Churches. They will be honored at a Leadership Appreciation Banquet on Friday, June 21, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center in Columbus, Georgia.

Bishop Skinner was born in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, to the late Richard and Alethia Skinner. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies, a Master of Arts in Theology and a Doctor of Theology in Biblical Studies, all from North Carolina College of Theology.

The Founder and Senior Pastor of Bread of Life Christian Center, Bishop Skinner is also the Founder and Presiding Prelate of Explosion Ministries Fellowship Association of Churches (EMFAC), a fellowship of interdenominational ministers, pastors and bishops who look to Bishop Skinner for instruction, covering and counsel. Bishop Skinner has several "Timothys," ministerial students that he has trained, now actively pastoring. In addition, Bishop Skinner has served in various other ministerial and civic capacities, including Vice President of the Columbus Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and Vice President of the Columbus NAACP. He is the author of three books, *Overcoming Grasshopper Mentality: How to Whip Negative Thinking in Eleven Easy Steps*, *Prayer: An Awesome Weapon*, and *Encounters with God: My Life, My Story*, *Alfor His Glory*, as well as several manuals on leadership, marriage and finances.

The daughter of the late Deacon Charles McDaniel and Elder Jessie Pearl McDaniel, Lady Ruth Skinner is the First Lady of the Bread of Life Christian Center and the National First Lady for EMFAC, both roles that allow her to serve as a matriarch and nurturer to men and women at large. She also performs the role of Ruling Elder and President of the Women's Department at Bread of Life. In addition, she has served as Adult Choir President and Minister of Music, among other capacities within the church.

Bread of Life Christian Center was established in 1984 with an initial group of twenty souls meeting in the basement of Bishop Skinner's home. In the intervening years, the congregation moved several times, outgrowing each facility, until May of 1996, when they moved into their current home, a \$1.2 million facility with a 600-seat sanctuary and 30 classrooms to house an ever-growing congregation.

Bishop and Lady Skinner are a dynamic force of life, spirit and faith. Bishop Skinner's understanding, compassion, and kindness have made him a guiding light within the community. Lady Skinner, a woman of striking conviction, unconditional sincerity and impeccable integrity, is looked to by the congregation for nurture and example. Just like fruit trees are often planted in pairs so as to produce more fruit, God planted the lives of Bishop and Lady Skinner together so they could bring the fruit of the Word to more of His children to satiate and sustain them throughout the journey of life.

Bishop Skinner and his lovely wife, Lady Skinner, have together cultivated a large family of dedicated and faithful Christ followers. They also have raised a beautiful family of their own—three sons, Elder Darnel Skinner, Jr., Darrell L. Skinner, Darius L. Skinner and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Bishop L.D. Skinner and his wife, Lady Ruth Skinner for their many, many outstanding years of Pastoral Ministry. They have transformed the lives of countless people and their leadership has inspired many others to also help lead the way to eternal life.

FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Chair, the failure by the House to pass the Farm Bill is the right outcome for a proposal that would have slashed nutrition for poor families and refused reforms to provide more benefits to most farmers and ranchers while it protected the largest agribusiness interests.

The authors of the bill refused to address the abuses in crop insurance, far greater than in food stamps which they so disdained, extended direct payments for cotton, and attacked conservation programs. The irony should not be lost on the public: the bill lavished extra payments on those who need it the least, hurt poor Americans who need the most assistance, and shortchanged typical Oregon farmers and ranchers who deserve better.

I hope that this debacle leads to legislation that is fairer to the taxpayer, does not cut support for hungry men, women, and children